

**ORIGINAL**

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED K - 99-25

**From:** Mary Riddick  
**To:** "James.Bunnelle@usm.edu"@ROUTE\_A.GWIA1  
**Date:** Mon, Jul 12, 1999 12:09 PM  
**Subject:** Re: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

**RECEIVED****JUL 22 1999**

Chairman Kennard requested that I acknowledge and review your comment and that it has been forwarded to the FCC Secretary's Office for association with Docket#99-25.

Federal Communications Commission  
 Office of Secretary

>>> "James M. Bunnelle" <James.Bunnelle@usm.edu> 07/09 1:47 PM >>>

=To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman,  
 Commissioner Gloria Tristani,  
 Commissioner Michael Powell  
 Commissioner Susan Ness  
 Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth  
 Federal Communications Commission  
 The Portals 455 Twelfth Street S.W. Washington, DC 20554  
 cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton Vice President Al Gore,  
 Bill Bradley, and George Bush, Jr.  
 cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition

MM Docket No. 99-25

Regarding The Creation of Low Power FM Licenses: RM-9242, RM-9208

Dear Honorable Chairman Kennard,

We are writing to commend you and the Federal Communications Commission for taking action on an issue of great importance to us - ending the 21-year ban on community access to the airwaves. We have become increasingly concerned about the growing concentration of the media in our country and are pleased that the Commission is responding to public outcry to increase opportunities for local communities to use our radio airwaves.

One of the fundamental tenets of our democracy is to ensure that diverse interests have opportunities to express themselves, not merely to be the recipients of what a handful of other people tell them. It is a nonnegotiable component of our right to a free press and free speech.

Radio is perhaps the most qualified of any media outlet to provide community access. It is a relatively inexpensive medium to produce and is well-suited to cover community issues and local culture. Unfortunately, over the past three years the U.S. radio broadcasting industry has experienced an unprecedented wave of consolidation and mergers. As a result, the electronic medium best suited to inexpensive, local programming has become arguably the most regimented and centralized of our major media. Even a multimillionaire would have trouble entering the radio broadcasting industry today, because economies of scale (permitted by deregulation) demand that a firm own numerous stations in several markets to be even remotely competitive. As for the person of average means, their lot is limited to being a passive consumer of an increasingly monopolistic industry that has less and less competitive pressure to heed the diverse, local needs of listeners. And, for poor people and others

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Awarding licenses for new low power FM radio stations would empower local communities with a new public forum to express its many voices, cultures, ideas, and needs. Low power radio stations would create much needed public fora for a variety of groups - including community activists, youth, ethnic and linguistic minorities, the religious community, local artists and cultural associations - and provide a forum for dialogue and debate about important local and public interest issues. These kinds of stations would strengthen community identity in urban neighborhoods, rural towns and other communities which are currently too small to win attention from "mainstream", profit-driven media.

The strong interest in independent radio stations shows that the creation of low power radio service would have wide public support. The tremendous demand for microradio is demonstrated by the emergence of a national Free Radio Movement, widespread civil disobedience, constitutional challenges of the Commission's aggressively enforced 21-year ban, as well as the proliferation of unlicensed community radio stations supported by local government, whose operators broadcast at the risk of financial losses, seizure of property, arrest, and in some cases, imprisonment.

In addition, the Commission has stated that in the last year alone, 13,000 people inquired regarding the possibility of obtaining a license for low power broadcasting in their communities. In support with the efforts of the Microradio Empowerment Coalition ([mec@tao.ca](mailto:mec@tao.ca)), we urge you to legalize microradio in order to benefit non-commercial community groups whose interest in microradio is to communicate, to educate, and to inform, not to make money. We are confident you agree that broad citizen access to information and culture is at the heart of a democratic society.

To support this vision, we urge you to legalize microradio with the following concerns in mind:

1. Microradio licenses should be awarded for non-commercial use only. The current radio spectrum is dominated by commercial media. LPFM licenses should go to non-commercial community groups who want to use radio to communicate with their neighbors, not make profit from them.
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Signed,

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Robert W. McChesney, Madison

Steering Committee:  
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Diane Fleming, Philadelphia  
Peter Franck, San Francisco

Amanda Huron, Washington, D.C.  
Alan Korn, San Francisco  
Greg Ruggiero, New York City

Robert W. McChesney-- University Of Illinois, Urbana  
Noam Chomsky--Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Howard Zinn--Professor Emeritus, Boston University  
Nancy Kranich--Librarian  
Ron Daniels--Executive Director, Center for Constitutional Rights  
George Gerbner--Founder, Cultural Environment Movement  
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Herbert Schiller--Professor Emeritus, University of California, San Diego  
Barbara Ehrenreich--Author  
Gloria Steinem--Ms.  
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist  
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

Additional Comments=  
name=James Bunnelle  
street=510 Melba Avenue  
city=Hattiesburg  
state=MS  
zip=39401  
=Send to FCC

**ORIGINAL**EX PARTE OR LATE FILED *DIS-99-25*

**From:** Mary Riddick  
**To:** "bbader@mindspring.com"@ROUTE\_A.GWIA1  
**Date:** Mon, Jul 12, 1999 12:13 PM  
**Subject:** Re: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

**RECEIVED****JUL 22 1999**

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**Office of Secretary**

&gt;&gt;&gt; Barbara Bader &lt;bbader@mindspring.com&gt; 07/09 1:55 PM &gt;&gt;&gt;

=To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman,  
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 Commissioner Susan Ness  
 Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth  
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 cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition

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Barbara Ehrenreich--Author  
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Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

Additional Comments=  
name=Barbara Bader  
street=1620 N.E. Irving St., Apt. 81  
city=Portland  
state=OR  
zip=97232  
=Send to FCC



EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

K-99-25

ORIGINAL RECEIVED

**From:** Mary Riddick  
**To:** "thaddeus@intrepid.net"@ROUTE\_A.GWIA1  
**Date:** Mon, Jul 12, 1999 12:08 PM  
**Subject:** Re: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

JUL 22 1999

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 Federal Communications Commission  
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>>> "Samuel T. Jannotta" <thaddeus@intrepid.net> 07/09 1:26 PM >>>

=To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman,  
 Commissioner Gloria Tristani,  
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 Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth  
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Herbert Schiller--Professor Emeritus, University of California, San Diego  
Barbara Ehrenreich--Author  
Gloria Steinem--Ms.  
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist  
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

Additional Comments=Please help ensure public access to the public airwaves in order to strengthen this democracy and unify our collective will towards the greater good. Thank you very muc

name=Samuel T. Jannotta

street=RR3 Box593

city=Harpers Ferry

state=WV

zip=25425

=Send to FCC

**ORIGINAL**

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

DK-99-25

**From:** Mary Riddick  
**To:** "dakk@ix.netcom.com"@ROUTE\_A.GWIA1  
**Date:** Tue, Jul 13, 1999 2:40 PM  
**Subject:** Re: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

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Federal Communications Commission  
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>>> Kevin Faye <dakk@ix.netcom.com> 07/13 9:51 AM >>>

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Diane Fleming, Philadelphia  
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Gloria Steinem--Ms.  
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist  
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

Additional Comments=  
name=Kevin Faye  
street=30 Loudoun St.  
city=Yonkers  
state=NY  
zip=10705  
=Send to FCC



ORIGINAL

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

DK-99-25

**From:** Mary Riddick  
**To:** "artwick.c@wlu.edu"@ROUTE\_A.GWIA1  
**Date:** Tue, Jul 13, 1999 2:39 PM  
**Subject:** Re: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

RECEIVED

JUL 22 1999

Chairman Kennard, requested that I acknowledge and review your comment and that it be forwarded to the FCC Secretary's Office for association with Docket#99-25.

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

&gt;&gt;&gt; Claudette Artwick &lt;artwick.c@wlu.edu&gt; 07/13 9:35 AM &gt;&gt;&gt;

=To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman,  
 Commissioner Gloria Tristani,  
 Commissioner Michael Powell  
 Commissioner Susan Ness  
 Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth  
 Federal Communications Commission  
 The Portals 455 Twelfth Street S.W. Washington, DC 20554  
 cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton Vice President Al Gore,  
 Bill Bradley, and George Bush, Jr.  
 cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition

MM Docket No. 99-25  
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Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

Additional Comments=  
name=Claudette Artwick  
street=Washington & Lee Univ.  
city=Lexington  
state=VA  
zip=24450  
=Send to FCC

**ORIGINAL**

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

**From:** Mary Riddick  
**To:** "mykarolak@aep.com"@ROUTE\_A.GWIA1  
**Date:** Tue, Jul 13, 1999 2:39 PM  
**Subject:** Re: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

**RECEIVED****JUL 22 1999**

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Federal Communications Commission  
 Office of Secretary

>>> <mykarolak@aep.com> 07/13 8:44 AM >>>

To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman,  
 Commissioner Gloria Tristani,  
 Commissioner Michael Powell  
 Commissioner Susan Ness  
 Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth  
 Federal Communications Commission  
 The Portals 455 Twelfth Street S.W. Washington, DC 20554  
 cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton Vice President Al Gore,  
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 cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition

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Gloria Steinem--Ms.  
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist  
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author  
Melissa Karolak  
1824 Ridgebury Drive  
Hilliard, OH 43026



**ORIGINAL** EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

DK-99-25

**From:** Mary Riddick  
**To:** "swedishgoat@hotmail.com"@ROUTE\_A.GWIA1  
**Date:** Tue, Jul 13, 1999 3:49 PM  
**Subject:** Re: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

**RECEIVED**

JUL 22 1999

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Federal Communications Commission  
 Office of Secretary

>>> "Kirstin 'Danger' Munro" <swedishgoat@hotmail.com> 07/13 3:22 PM >>>

To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman,  
 Commissioner Gloria Tristani,  
 Commissioner Michael Powell  
 Commissioner Susan Ness  
 Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth  
 Federal Communications Commission  
 The Portals 455 Twelfth Street S.W. Washington, DC 20554  
 cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton Vice President Al Gore,  
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Kirstin Munro, San Jose, California.

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Barbara Ehrenreich--Author  
Gloria Steinem--Ms.  
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist  
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

\*\*\*\*\*

"During times of universal deceit, telling the truth becomes a revolutionary act"--George Orwell

\*\*\*\*\*